

COINS

Three musts for collectors' bookshelves

By Roger Boye

Despite the slumping market for rare coins, book publishers continue to churn out new editions of hobby standard-bearers. Here is some information on three references recently revised.

"Standard Catalog of World Coins," by Chester L. Krause and Clifford Mishler, eighth edition.

This is one of the biggest coin books ever issued, a 2,048-page behemoth that's about the size of the Chicago phone book. The catalog is much too large to take to a coin show for a quick check of mintage figures, but it's invaluable in a collector's library.

The 1982 edition includes the current "retail price" for nearly every coin issued by any government in the world during the last 230 years.

Fortunately, the authors retain their liberal use of photographs in the new volume [41,000 pictures simplify coin identification], and once again the authors list the amount of precious metal in most silver and gold pieces.

Hobbyists who aren't scared away by the \$29.50 price will find the eighth edition the proverbial "one-stop coin

library." The book is on sale in many coin shops, or it may be purchased for \$29.50 from the publisher, Krause Publications, Inc., 700 E. State St., Iola, Wis. 54990.

"**Official Price Guide to Mint Errors and Varieties**," by Alan Herbert, third edition.

Author Herbert—one of the nation's top experts on error coins—describes dozens of unusual pieces. He dissects the minting process, analyzing equipment malfunctions that help to create "triple punched mint marks," "blank planchets," and many other oddities.

As in past editions, Herbert includes the current market value for all known error types. And his clear prose takes much of the mystery out of this sometimes difficult-to-understand segment of the hobby.

Several local coin shops sell the book [cost is \$4.95]; autographed copies are available from Herbert for \$5.60 [includes postage] by writing Box C, Deadwood, S.D. 57732.

"**Paper Money of the United States**," by the late Robert Friedberg, with revisions by Ira and Arthur Friedberg, 10th edition.

Many hobby pros rate this book as the most important reference on American currency, in part because it lists all types and sizes of U.S. paper money since the first year of issue, 1861.

To buy a copy of the hardbound, handsomely printed book, visit a coin store or send \$21 to The Coin and Currency Institute, Inc., 102 Linwood Plaza, Fort Lee, N.J. 07024.